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EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTIES

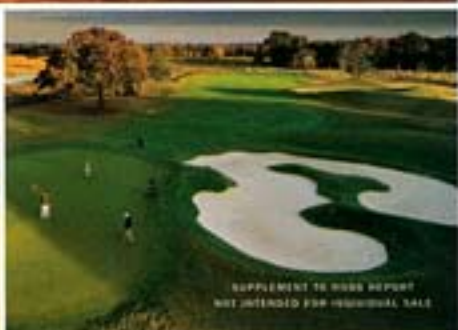
YOUR PERFECT PLACE

MOUNTAINS * BEACHES * ISLANDS

EQUESTRIAN, GOLF AND MARINA COMMUNITIES

WHAT \$10 MILLION BUYS IN LONDON, ASPEN AND NANTUCKET

PLUS ARGENTINA | MAUI | SEDONA



An aerial photograph of a lush green golf course. The course is situated on a hillside, with a large, winding lake to its right. In the background, there are rolling mountains partially shrouded in a thick, golden mist or fog, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The foreground shows several sand traps and a well-maintained fairway. The overall scene is serene and picturesque.

From the mountains to the beaches and gorgeous points in between, these golf communities are exceptional places to call home

BY R.J. HARDWICK

Sweet Carolinas

When David and Liz Bruce went looking for a second home, they had two overriding desires.

"We wanted to find a place within a two-hour drive of our home in Atlanta, so we could use it often," says Liz. "And it had to have a wide range of recreational opportunities so we could enjoy plenty of activities as a family."

So it was an easy decision for the Bruces to settle on buying a home at The Reserve on Lake Keowee,

the 3,900-acre resort community in Sunset, SC, that stretches along 30 miles of shoreline of the pristine lake. The Reserve's Jack Nicklaus-designed course, which follows the natural contours of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains and plays four holes along the lake, was an added bonus.

"My husband and two sons are avid golfers. And my daughter is just beginning to learn the game," says Liz. "We can do everything by foot here – go to the market,



TOP: BRIAN SCHNEK

Top: The Reserve at Lake Keowee. Inset: Pinehurst Resort



walk to where we keep our boat. It really increases our quality time together."

That pursuit of quality time, along with the chance to enjoy world-class golfing opportunities, is what draws so many second-home buyers to North and South Carolina. The two states offer an amazing diversity of options for recreation and landscape, from rustic mountain getaways to oceanfront estates and gracious homes that overlook tidal marshes. The Reserve at Lake Keowee, which will have about 1,600 residences when completely developed, is already home to some 550 families that hail from more than 30 different states. The community, where the price of homes ranges from

\$590,000 to more than \$2 million, also features a 200-slip marina and more than 1,400 acres of parks, preserves, trails and green space.

While recent years have seen the emergence of dozens of new golfing communities in the Carolinas, the game's aficionados have been flocking here for years. One of the most venerable golfing communities, **Pinehurst Resort**, in the rolling sandhills about 100 miles east of Charlotte, was founded in 1895 and has hosted more championship tournaments than any location in the U.S. It now has eight courses, including Pinehurst No. 2, which will host both the men's and women's U.S. Open in 2014.



This page and opposite: Daniel Island

"Even if you're not a golfer, you can still happily enjoy your time here," says Janeen Driscoll, Pinehurst's communications manager. The resort's 24 tennis courts, croquet lawns and lawn bowling courts have also hosted national championship events. And the 31,000-square-foot Spa at Pinehurst has 24 treatment rooms offering more than 50 rejuvenating services.

Club memberships at Pinehurst are available to those who own real estate within the Village of Pinehurst where prices start at about \$150,000 for condominium residences and range from \$180,000 to several million for single-family homes.

South Carolina's lowcountry is home to a number

of notable golfcentric communities, including Daniel Island, just outside of Charleston, which is anchored by courses designed by Rees Jones and Tom Fazio. With all the ambience of traditional small-town living, complete with a lively downtown, schools, several sports facilities and a private clubhouse, homes at Daniel Island range from the \$200,000s for condominiums to \$1 million and more for custom homes on the Wando River.

Located just outside the antebellum town of Beaufort, in South Carolina's lowcountry, Dataw Island is home to two world-class courses – Tom Fazio's Cotton Dike design and the Arthur Hills-designed Morgan River Signature Course. The 870-acre gated commu-



nity currently has about 820 homes, with another 200 scheduled to be built when the development is complete. Prices for single-family homes range from \$450,000 to more than \$3 million, with all homes enjoying views of one of the courses, the surrounding deep waters, marsh or lagoon. For those who want to build custom homes, sites are available from \$75,000 to \$150,000.

Twenty-seven holes of Jack Nicklaus Signature golf lead the list of amenities at **Governors Club**, a 1,600-acre community just outside of Chapel Hill in North Carolina's prosperous Research Triangle area. Established in 1988, Governors Club also offers members a tennis

and fitness center, swimming pool and a 42,000-square-foot clubhouse with dining room and banquet facilities. Recent listings ranged from a 1,296-square-foot, 2-bedroom home in Governors Village for \$190,000 to a 7,916-square-foot home on 2.8 acres for \$3,950,000. Wooded home sites start at about \$50,000 for a quarter-acre lot and range upward to \$469,000 for almost three acres in a prime location.

A large part of the attraction of North Carolina's Bald Head Island is that it can only be reached by a two-mile boat or ferry ride across the Cape Fear River from Southport, NC. And residents get around on bicy-



Left and right: Bald Head Island

TOP: STEVEN MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHY; BOTTOM: LEFT: COURTESY OF BALD HEAD ISLAND LIMITED



The Club at Longview

cle, golf carts or by foot since no private cars are permitted on the 12,000-acre island. That sensitivity to conservation appealed to Frank and Renee Lloyd, who live in Raleigh during the week and spend weekends at the home they bought on the island four years ago.

"From the beauty of the creeks, the pristine beaches, the historic lighthouse, ancient maritime forests, a full service marina, and a river that carries ships into the port of Wilmington, it was obvious this was where we

wanted our family to call home," says Renee. "During the summer there are camps for the kids and outings such as turtle walks, kayaking, birdwatching and fishing for the adults and families."

The Bald Head Island Club's 18-hole seaside golf course winds its way over dunes, around lagoons, along the ocean, and through a maritime forest. Course designer George Cobb, who for 20 years was the lead consultant at Augusta National, left much of the terrain the way he found it, creating a course of almost unparalleled wild beauty.

Located just south of Charlotte, **The Club at Longview** spreads out around a Jack Nicklaus Signature course. The community's 10,000-square-foot activity center has massage and steam rooms, a fitness center and a Youth Lodge, along with a pool, hot tub and tennis courts. The 28,000-square-foot clubhouse offers formal and casual dining rooms, along with a bar and grill. The community's latest real estate offering includes **The Cottages**, designed in a distinctive Tudor style with dramatic sloping roofs and diamond-grid windows. The homes, with about 3,000 square feet of living space, start in the low \$800,000s. ☐



Left and right: Dataw Island